



New Foundations, Inc.

Welcome

Welcome to New Foundations' third quarterly newsletter. Our objective is to keep our staff, foster parents, children and other social service professionals informed as to what is happening in each of our offices. Since our newsletter will be available to view on our website, we will use first names only in conjunction with the children placed in our care. We are developing web pages to

display our children's drawings and paintings, so please submit any artwork you would like to have posted to your case manager, supervisor or recruiter. We would also like to hear from our foster families and our teenagers about your experiences with New Foundations and the foster care system, so we also encourage you to submit your accounts or stories to your case manager, supervisor or

recruiter as well. By sharing your accounts on our website, we would like to provide a better understanding of the rewards and challenges of foster parenting to prospective foster parents and other interested parties.



Volume 1, Issue 3

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Mission Statement

New Foundations, A New Beginning for Children and Families

Timely Tips

© Remember to monitor what your children are watching on television. Every show has a rating in the upper left corner of the screen when the show starts. The ratings go from TV-Y, which is for all children and is designed for a very young audience to TV-MA, which is mature audiences only. It is designed for those 18 and older only. In between those are TV-Y7, TV-Y7FV, TV-G, TV-PG, and TV-14. The television rating system is similar to what we have seen from movie ratings and they are just as important to understand. Learn more and find the full listing of TV rating definitions from www.controlyourtv.org

About New Foundations

New Foundations is a private, non-profit child welfare agency that is licensed by the Department of Public Welfare to provide service to children and families

in Philadelphia and the surrounding counties. We currently serve 170 children and their foster and biological families in the following ways:

- Foster Care Services
- Kinship Care Services
- Aftercare Services
- Adoption Services
- SCOH Services

Program Office News

New Foundations wishes everyone a healthy and happy holiday season. Santa will be visiting both offices on December 16, 2005. Children and families will be able to have their picture taken with Santa as well as receive gifts, play games and enjoy a holiday feast. The

Chester office will also have a Christmas basket lottery for our resource families.

New Foundations will be hosting a holiday party for staff on December 9th at Finnegan's Wake, 3rd & Spring Garden Sts., Philadelphia from 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm. Music will be

provided by a DJ and a buffet dinner will be served.



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Center City Office

Deatrice Fields and Charles Mensah continue to do an excellent job supervising both units in the Center City office. There are currently over 130 children placed in resource homes (foster and kinship) within these two units.

New Foundations welcomes Nafeesah Reed to the Center City office as part of the case management team. Nafeesah started in October and Deatrice reports that she is doing exceptionally well. Lancelot Biggs

also joined the team in late October and Charles reports he is doing well also.

Certificates of appreciation were awarded to foster parents Catherine Antrom, Eugenia Ketter and Marta Vinson as Foster Parents of the Month for September, October and November, respectively. The Center City staff will be hosting a foster parent appreciation event in January, honoring all of the resource parents from the Center City office.

Congratulations to secretary Yvonne Jones and case manager Kevin Story for recent Employee of the Month awards. Kevin also celebrated a new addition to his family in September. Case manager Sayjelah Lundy will be furthering her education at the University of Phoenix, working on a Master's degree in Business. Congratulations also to resource parents, Patricia Allen and Joyce Jones on winning the two Thanksgiving Day baskets raffled off in November.

Chester Office

Office supervisor Sherron Samuels continues to do an excellent job and seems to be settled in and enjoying her move to the Chester office. Nicole Thompson joined the Chester staff as a casemanager in September and Sherron reports that she has quickly become a part of the team.

Our children have also been busy over the last couple of months. Jay'quan was "Student of the Day" in October. Domenic has started karate lessons. Mercedes received an award for her presentation at her church. Bikeem has been selected for the Junior Varsity

basketball team at his school and Genera again made Honor Roll and was elected senior class president. Keep up the good work, everyone!

The Chester office staff honored our resource families in October by having a Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner. The families were served dinner prepared by the staff. Families received gift bags and certificates for "Quality Care". New Foundations appreciates the hard work and dedication of all of our resource families. The Chester office will also be giving out "best report cards" awards. Winners will receive movie tickets or

certificates to Best Buy/Circuit City.

Timely Tips

© Depending on their age and size, children should always be in car seats or booster seats. Infants up to one year and twenty pounds should always be in rear-facing car seats and always in the back seat of the car. A child one year to four years or twenty to forty pounds should be in a front facing care seat or high-backed booster seat and still in the rear of the car. Children four to eight years of age and up to eighty pounds should be using a booster seat. The police departments are taking this very seriously and will pull you over and give you a fine. For the safety of the children and so that you do not have a run-in with the law, please keep children in car seats and in the back seat. A airbag can kill a child in the front seat. For more information go to: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/> Then click on the traffic safety tab and child passenger safety.

Upcoming Foster Parent Trainings

Chester office
January 25, 2006 - Developing Your Child's Senses
February 25, 2006 - Building a

Cohesive Family
March 25, 2006 - How to Communicate with Your Teenager

Center City
Training will resume in January.
Dates and topics will be announced.

Recruitment

The recruitment staff has been busy over the last quarter. In addition to approving eleven new resource families, the team has been busy reaching out in various local communities. The team welcomed Taren Daniels back from maternity leave in October. Kirsten Hontz and Sandie Caulder attended the Southeast Regional SWAN meeting in Philadelphia in September along with adoption coordinator Amy Morris. Kirsten answered questions on foster care at the Arts & Craft Fair in the Society Hill section of Philadelphia in September and manned a table at a flea market at Old Swedes Church in October. Shep Garner and Taren

joined Program Director Shante Lee at the Tri-State Mall in Delaware after Thanksgiving, providing information on foster care and adoption to holiday shoppers.

Kirsten and foster parent Barbara Lewis attended the Pennsylvania State Foster Parent Association conference in Grantville, PA on October 20th and 21st. Kirsten reported that the workshops were enjoyable as well as educational. It was Kirsten's first attendance at the conference while Barbara tries to attend every year. We are hoping to send more of our foster parents next year. If any of our resource parents are interested in attending

future conferences, please contact Sandie in the Chester office.

Services to Children in Their Own Homes (SCOH)

The New Foundations SCOH program continues working with our Philadelphia area families. Two families have been successfully discharged this quarter while we had five new referrals. Danielle Williams reports that her staff was busy in September ensuring that all children had school supplies and were prepared to begin the new school year. SCOH case managers were able to provide Thanksgiving Baskets for all their families. The baskets consisted of a full holiday dinner and included a twenty pound turkey. All families were very appreciative and some even cried because "they were not used to people helping them the way we are helping". Special thanks to Danielle and the SCOH case managers: Omar Scruggs, Dante Adams, Nia Curtis and Christiana Maddox for all their hard work over the holidays.

Performance Based Contracting (PBC) adoptions through Philadelphia county and SWAN adoptions and Child Preparation through Delaware and the surrounding counties. If you, or anyone you are connected with is interested in learning more about adopting a child, please contact our adoption coordinator at (215) 203-8733.

Adoption

We are pleased to share that New Foundations adoption staff has successfully finalized five adoptions between September 1, 2005 and December 1, 2005. We would like to extend our congratulations and ongoing support to the families who finalized their adoptions to date.

We would like to welcome Jill Chiciak, who was hired as an Adoption Coordinator in October, 2005.

Our Adoption Coordinators, Amy Morris and Jill Chiciak, attended the SWAN Fall Quarterly Meeting in Philadelphia, Pa. on November 2, 2005. The theme for the event was "Independent Living." Amy attended the SWAN Southeast Regional Meeting on

September 19, 2005. The topic was "Pennsylvania Adoption Exchange Later," which focused on ACT 160 and the Family Resource Registry. Jill and Amy attended a Post-Adoption Forum sponsored by the Delaware Valley Adoption Council on November 16, 2005 and the SWAN Southeast Regional Meeting on December 6, 2005.

Amy and Jill also met with Elisa Esh, our Diakon-SWAN Technical Assistant, for the quarterly site visit on 11/10/05. Ms. Esh commended New Foundations staff for their commitment and enthusiasm in achieving permanency through adoption for children and families.

New Foundations continues to complete

Aftercare

Aftercare Services are provided to children and families who have achieved permanency through Reunification and Permanent Legal Custodianship (PLC). Services are provided by New Foundations Aftercare case managers for 12 months post permanency.

New Foundations Aftercare case managers, Lisa Naklicki and Kemi Odeniyi,

attended an Aftercare training in Philadelphia, Pa on 10/27/05. The theme for the training was "Writing Effective Aftercare Plans for Families Reuniting". The training also focused on encouraging all agencies involved with reuniting families to work together to help make all Reunification and PLC cases a success.

New Foundations Aftercare program

currently services 34 families. Ten families have been successfully discharged from the Aftercare Unit in the last quarter.

The Aftercare supervisor and case managers have demonstrated a genuine commitment to empowering our children and families and have provided excellent service during the last quarter.

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A New Beginning For Children
and Families

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DON'T FORGET...

Don't forget that we are always looking for new foster parents so we are better able to match the children coming into our care with qualified and caring foster families. If you, or anyone you are connected with is interested in learning more about foster parenting, please contact our recruitment or case management staff at (215) 203-8733 or (610) 876-4474 or visit our website at www.nfi4kids.org.

Holiday Home Safety

Tis the season again. It is amazing how quickly a year can fly past. Many of us love to decorate for the holiday season, but we must be careful when doing so. There are a number of hazards in beautifying our homes for the holidays.

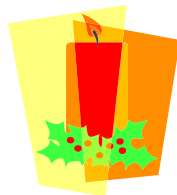


One way to help ensure safety in the home is to make your Christmas tree safe. The best way to ensure tree safety is to have an artificial tree. They are safer and cleaner. They can also be used over and over again. They will save money over time. If you really enjoy having a real tree, there are some ways to make it safer. First, make sure you keep the tree moist. It will drink about a gallon of water every two days. Make sure you cut an inch off

the bottom of the tree trunk for better absorption of water. Next, make sure that you keep your tree away from the fireplace or any space heater you have in the home.



Another way to ensure safety in the home during the holidays is to make sure your lights are safe. Never use real candles on a tree. Only use UL-listed lights. You will find this label attached to the light strand. Do not string more than three strands of lights together. It is also better to use small lights that have cool burning bulbs. Always turn off the lights on the



tree when you are not at home or if you are sleeping. It is also wise to discard lights after one year of use. They are inexpensive and it will give you piece of mind.

If you follow these simple, practical and easy safety tips, your home and family can have a safe, happy and healthy holiday season. For more safety tips you can visit the website where this information was gathered . <http://www.sosnet.com/safety/christmas.html>

